

Appl. No. : 09/823,394  
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#### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 4 of the specification, beginning on line 1, with the following paragraph:

Still another embodiment of the invention provides a BIN1 mutant with missense mutations in the kinase domain (BIN1-104, A1031T) or in a region of the extracellular domain near the transmembrane domain (BIN1-102, T750-IF740-I) wherein the brassinolide binding activity is similar to wild type and the biosynthetic mutant det2. Another BIN1 mutant with missense ~~mutations~~ (BIN1-6, G644-D) and a mutation causes a premature translation step (BIN1-116, Q583-stop), both in the 70 amino acid island region, wherein the brassinolide binding activity is greatly reduced.